

Maria Theresa, Sister Isabella, and Sister Esther administrated at the new school which then had its first class of 81 students. The first school building was completed on November 2, 1955. The first class of students graduated in 1959. By 1960, the number of students swelled to 495. The staff continued to grow and formed a young, enthusiastic group who worked tirelessly to attain the highest standards, not only in the academic field, but also in athletics, music and other extracurricular activities. Identifying the need for values-based education for all young people, Providence began welcoming young men, as well as women, to the school in 1974.

Sr. Lucille Dean became the school's principal in 1986. Providence continued in the next few years to build on the tradition of excellence. Providence High School has received recognition throughout its history for its academic achievement. It was designated a Blue Ribbon School in 1997 and received accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 1996. In 2001, the school opened the Fritz B. Burns Student Activity Center featuring a state-of-the-art gymnasium, weight room, exercise room, boys and girls locker rooms, and conference center. Providence has a proud history of carrying out its unique mission of education. The school continually strives for academic excellence and the total development of the individual.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Providence High School for 50 years of exemplary public service, and for its immense commitment to educating young people of all cultural and economic backgrounds for academic achievement, compassionate service, ethical standards, Christian leadership, global awareness, and life-long learning.

**TOM AND MARY ELLEN CODY  
HONORED BY JUVENILE DIABETES  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION AS  
2005 CINCIANNATIANS OF THE  
YEAR**

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom and Mary Ellen Cody, friends and constituents who on April 30, 2005 will be named 2005 Cincinnatians of the Year by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International is the central resource for information about type 1 juvenile diabetes, and raises funds to support research to find a cure for diabetes.

Tom and Mary Ellen are being honored for their extraordinary service to the Cincinnati community. They have been active members since they moved to our area in 1982, when Tom joined Federated Department Stores, Inc. Currently, Tom is vice chair of Federated with responsibility for legal and human resources, internal audit, external affairs, and the company's philanthropic activities. Prior to joining Federated, Tom was with Pan American World Airways, Inc. He serves on the Boards of Trustees of Xavier University, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Life Center, and the National Conference

for Community and Justice. In addition, he is a past chair of United Way of Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees. A native of New York City, Tom received a B.A. from Maryknoll College and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

Mary Ellen is a member of the boards of Dominican Community Services, 4Cs (Community Coordinated Child Care), Dress for Success Cincinnati, and Friends of the University of Cincinnati College—Conservatory of Music (CCM). She attended the College of Mount Saint Joseph.

The Codys have 4 children: Thomas, Jr., Mark, Anne, and Amy, and 7 grandchildren.

All of us in the greater Cincinnati area congratulate the Codys on their extraordinary community service, and on receiving this prestigious honor.

**FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ DANIEL  
FERRER GARCÍA**

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Daniel Ferrer García, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ferrer García is the regional coordinator for the Christian Liberation Movement in the province of Santiago. He is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who believes in the cause of freedom for the men and women of Cuba. Because of his steadfast belief in human liberty, and his constant work to bring freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime, Mr. Ferrer García has been a constant target of the dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Ferrer García has been harassed and detained numerous times for his pro-democracy activism. In January 2002, he was forced from a bus and beaten by the tyrant's thugs because of his activities and ideals. In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Ferrer García was arrested. Subsequently, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

While confined in the inhuman horror of Castro's gulag, Mr. Ferrer García has been the constant target of abuse. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004:

On January 1, José Daniel Ferrer García reported serving 45 days in a punishment cell for protesting the suspension of correspondence and the delivery of food and medical supplies from his family. He did not receive food or water during the first 3 days of his confinement and slept on a cement floor. Authorities confiscated his Bible and prohibited any contact with other prisoners.

The same Country Report describes the true horrors of a punishment cell: "Prisoners sometimes were held in 'punishment cells,' which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet." This is in addition to the grotesque depravity of the gulag that also includes beatings, isolation, denial of medical treatment to detainees and sexual abuse.

Mr. Ferrer García is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation. Thousands languish in the gulag because, like Mr. Ferrer García, they refuse to accept the tyrannical dictatorship in Cuba today.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of José Daniel Ferrer García and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

**100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY  
OF WEST BRANCH**

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a city. Tomorrow, the residents of West Branch, Michigan celebrate this great milestone.

The land that is now West Branch began as a timber town in 1875, blessed with a mixture of soft and hardwoods. As many timber towns dissolved with the depleting timber supply, the early community leaders of West Branch had the foresight to replenish the forests through a conservation plan funded through a timely oil boom that contributed greatly to the economy.

Located on the Michigan's largest railroad line, West Branch is roughly halfway between the southern State line and the Mackinac Bridge. Three old Native American Chippewa Trails that convened in West Branch transformed into what is now known as highways, M-76, M-30 and M-55 making that area a major hub for the increasing transportation.

It was in 1905 that the State of Michigan recognized West Branch for 30 years of solid growth by granting them incorporation as a City. The State further noted that the area's escalating commerce in the farm industry also attributed to the cause for incorporation. Agriculture, still today, remains the area's largest economic resource.

Through the years, the community has dramatically evolved. In the 1930s and 40s West Branch grew its recreational attractions by establishing Trout Festivals and Alpine Ski facilities as well as promoting its suitability for hunting, fishing and agriculture. In the 1950s and 60s the City focused on highway and land development that brought the most famous highway in the state, I-75, directly through their emerging community. During the 70s, 80s and 90s the city experienced an economic boom and acquired two industrial parks. One of the parks was bestowed a "smiley-face" water tower, which is now the trademark of the City. The other, eventually became home to Tolfree Memorial Hospital, West Branch Regional Medical Center and the state-of-the art Seaton Cancer Center.

The West Branch of today, with a population of 1,924, serves as the County seat for Ogemaw County. This fast growing community's expanding commerce, with its own Community Airport and bustling outdoor shopping

mall contrasts the Victorian downtown that embraced its rich history during their recent streetscape enhancement.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the broadly shared opinion that West Branch is a warm and welcoming community. When the city was added to my new district after the 2000 census I held an open house for my district office there in order to get to know my new constituents. I was impressed by the thoughtful questions of the people who attended and was touched by their welcome to me as their new Representative.

Since then, I've held a healthcare forum in West Branch, visited with the West Branch Area Business and Professional Women's Club and even had the honor of throwing the first pitch at the West Branch Little League games. I continue to be very proud to represent the fine community of West Branch in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the City of West Branch and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 3, 2005, I missed the vote on final passage of H.R. 841, the Continuity in Representation Act, rollcall 52. Because it was announced earlier that this vote would be conducted as a voice vote, I immediately left the House floor following the vote on the motion to recommit, so that I could make a flight to my District. Later in the day, I learned Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD demanded a recorded vote on the question of passage of the bill.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the final passage of H.R. 841.

#### EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-SECESSION LAW

#### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about reports of China's intention to pass an anti-secession law, which appears to permit China to punish Taiwan for what it perceives to be movements toward independence or separatist sentiments. At a time when we should be encouraging greater cross-strait cooperation, this effort by the Chinese could further heighten tensions and possibly move the region toward armed conflict.

When I traveled to Taiwan last year, I saw a vibrant democracy, a strong economy, and citizens appreciative of their high standard of living and ability to enjoy basic human rights. Most importantly, I met people who want to engage in the world community. Yet, the anti-secession law would permit China to decide for itself what constitutes an independence movement in Taiwan. Such carte blanche au-

thority would be chilling in Taiwan, which has supported civil liberties and free speech rights.

I hope that Chinese leaders will use their better judgment and abandon this ill-conceived plan. We, as Americans, must do what we can to promote peace and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait. Despite our commitments in Iraq and elsewhere, we must remain engaged in this matter. Our silence could be interpreted as tacit permission for China to escalate its rhetoric and possibly initiate action against Taiwan, with whom the U.S. has a strong relationship. We must encourage our friends in Beijing to build on their history of cooperative efforts with Taiwan, economically and culturally, to enhance their relationship. I know the people of Taiwan look forward to greater engagement with the mainland and a peaceful coexistence with their Chinese brothers and sisters.

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

#### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the Peace Corps and to celebrate National Peace Corps Week, which ran from February 28 to March 6, 2005.

Last week, we honored Peace Corps Volunteers for their dedicated work in promoting world peace and friendship across the globe. In an era where global interdependence and camaraderie has become increasingly important, the Peace Corps plays an integral role in connecting individuals from different countries, races, and creeds.

Since the inception of the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, over 178,000 volunteers have served in 138 countries. Currently, there are more than 7,700 Peace Corps volunteers serving in 72 countries around the world—the highest number of volunteers in the field in the past 29 years. Peace Corps volunteers are quite a diverse group, serving as teachers, information technology consultants, youth and agriculture workers, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and business advisors.

I am proud to say that the 5th Congressional District of New York currently has 12 of its own as Peace Corps volunteers. They are, in alphabetical order and followed by the countries in which they serve: Kimberly A. Beers, Dominican Republic; Ling-Yun Chen, Turkmenistan; Michael E. Garriss, Armenia; Seth B. Gazes, El Salvador; Melissa Gonzalez, Costa Rica; Orlando Gonzalez, Costa Rica; Amy Y. Han, Uzbekistan; Grace E. Lee, Madagascar; Pei-Zei Lin, Burkina Faso; Erin C. McNally, Turkmenistan; Richard Z. Mo, Paraguay; Debbie Nip, Moldova.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring all of the past and present Peace Corps volunteers who selflessly serve abroad, empowering individuals in developing countries and spreading their message of world peace and friendship. These fine men and women have committed years of their lives to helping total strangers and to making our world a better and friendlier place. We salute your unselfish acts.

#### RECOGNITION OF DR. DONALD F. AVERILL FOR THE HARRY BUTTIMER DISTINGUISHED ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

#### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give recognition to Dr. Donald F. Averill, Chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District for receiving the Harry Buttmer Distinguished Administrative Award. It is my honor to recognize Dr. Averill's leadership, dedication, extensive educational background, and his academic and administrative merits to the faculty and students of the State of California.

Dr. Averill earned his doctoral degree in Educational Management from the University of La Verne. He has contributed great efforts to vocational education and educational development through teaching and administration. In addition to his 40 years of experience as professor and administrator, Dr. Averill has also served his tenure of service as Superintendent and President of Palo Verde College, President of the California Association of Occupational Administrators, Chair of the Occupational Education Coalition, Chair of a Legislative Oversight Committee on Contract Education, Chair of the Southern 30's Human Resources Exchange, and Chair of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) Human Resources Commission.

Dr. Averill carries a strong commitment to public service, clearly demonstrated by his active involvement with the people and organizations of his community. He is currently involved with over 20 regional, state, and national organizations. Due to his broad knowledge in education and understanding of legislative and educational issues, Dr. Averill is frequently asked to take the lead in areas of higher education, economic development, and community college finances.

Furthermore, Dr. Averill has compiled an impressive list of community outreach, which includes his service as Co-Founder of the Orange County Technology Exchange Center, Chair of the local American Heart Association branch, Lt. Governor of Division Three for Kiwanis International, Chairman of the Board for Mary's Home, Director and Board Member of the Blythe Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Palo Verde Valley Economic Partnership, Member of the Board of Directors of the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce and the Rialto Chamber of Commerce. He serves on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of California, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, and the Work Incentive Board of San Bernardino County.

Dr. Averill is an outstanding awardee to receive the Harry Buttmer Distinguished Administrator Award. His leadership, commitment, loyalty, integrity, and merits all made him a perfect candidate deserving of such a great honor. The people of San Bernardino County and of the State of California thank him for his continued service.